Building Army Prepositioned Stocks

What is it? The Army Prepositioned Stocks (APS) program supports the National Military Strategy by strategically prepositioning critical warfighting stocks afloat and ashore worldwide to reduce deployment response times of the modular expeditionary Army. The APS program consists of prepositioned unit sets of equipment, operational projects, and sustainment stocks. It also includes War Reserve Stocks for Allies (WRSA) in Korea, Thailand, and Israel. The centrally managed APS program allows stocks to be moved from one location to another to support combatant commanders execute multiple simultaneous missions.

What has the army done? The Army issued three APS brigades and supporting equipment (218 unit sets) to the 3rd Infantry Division for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). APS Force Provider modules provide base support for both Operation Enduring Freedom and OIF. APS supplies were also used to support these operations. Subsequently the Army evolved the program redistributing and reconfiguring the equipment from Europe to Pacific and SWA APS afloat. To improve War Reserve Secondary Items (WRSI) prepositioning the Army adopted new warfighting scenarios and planning factors to calculate future warfighting requirements. The Army also developed a new APS strategy to ensure its expeditionary capabilities remain relevant and are properly configured and positioned to meet changing threats.

What continued effort does the Army have planned for the future? The new Army APS Strategy transforms APS to support the National Military Strategy and counter emerging 21st Century threats. The most significant changes occur in the transformation to the Army Modular Force and the conversion to multi-apportioned Army Strategic Flotillas (ASF). The ASF-Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT) packages, and ASF-Support packages will provide the capability to support and sustain the full range of military operations for the early arriving forces. When the new APS strategy is fully implemented, Heavy Brigade Combat Teams (HBCT) will be land-based and afloat at strategic locations worldwide. These sets will include the necessary combat support/combat service support (CS/CSS) unit sets plus watercraft to discharge and conduct operations in austere environments. The Army is also investing in key APS maintenance, storage, and ammunition facilities at to support this strategy.

Why is it important to the Army? The relevance of APS to an Army at war was most recently demonstrated by major support to OIF. APS remains a critical element of the Army Power Projection Program (AP3) and continues to support current operations in the Global War on Terrorism. In addition to being a cornerstone for Army power projection with brigade sets prepositioned worldwide, the operational projects in APS provide specialized capabilities such as petroleum distribution, Force Provider base camp modules, and mortuary affairs. Prepositioned sustainment supplies support APS unit sets and deploying

units until resupply is established. Continued support of the APS transformation strategy is essential to achieve the full capability of the modular expeditionary Army.

Container Management Initiatives

What is it? The Army pays commercial ocean carriers container detention and port storage charges when the government either cannot accept delivery or does not return a commercial carrier's container within a prescribed time frame. Users hold containers past their "free" time primarily because they are using containers as temporary storage, for force protection - such as bunkers, or as offices. The Army established the Intermodal and Distribution Platform Management Office (AIDPMO) in 2003 to improve accountability and visibility of Army and commercial containers and minimize detention costs. The AIDPMO receives all units' container requests and reallocates government-owned equipment instead of leasing new containers.

What has the Army done? In addition to the Army establishing the AIDPMO, the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command and U.S. Army Central Command have established container transload operations at several sites to improve accountability and reduce container detentions. At these sites, contents are transferred from carrier-owned containers to government-owned equipment. This minimizes detention charges by preventing carrier-owned containers from moving forward into the AOR. The primary impediment to efficient transload operations is the continuous availability of Government-owned or leased containers. Currently there are insufficient Government-owned or leased containers in the inventory.

What continuing efforts does the Army have planned for the future? To improve accountability and visibility of Army and commercial containers, assure availability during the initial contingency phase of operations, and minimize detention costs the Army is determining how many Government-owned containers are required to support the initial contingency phase of operations - when the use of containers is critical for bunkers, barriers, warehousing and offices. The Army is also working with USTRANSCOM and the Combatant Commanders to improve container management process and visibility and accountability systems.

Why is it important to the Army? In Fiscal Year 2005, the U.S. Army lost visibility and accountability of thousands of containers and paid commercial ocean carriers millions in container detention and port storage charges. Carrier-owned containers used for storage or other non-transportation purposes in Afghanistan account for over 65 percent of the total detention charges for the CENTCOM area. The use of containers for bunkers, barriers, warehousing and offices during the initial contingency phase of operations is critical and can not be

avoided. However, detention charges can be avoided by using Government-owned containers for these purposes. In addition, initial contingency requirements cannot be met, and transloading operations cannot be sustained – and detention costs avoided - without an adequate inventory of empty containers.

For additional information, please contact us: mailto:TellArmyG4@hqda.army.mil
or visit the DCS, G-4 web page: http://www.hqda.army.mil/logweb